

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----007770 272325Z /63 R

O R 272210Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6810
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BRASILIA 2424

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), BR, US
SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT: SILVEIRA RAISES POSSIBILITY OF
USG-GOB COOPERATION

REFS: (A) BRASILIA 2355, B) BRASILIA 2347

1. SUMMARY: RIO'S O GLOBO CARRIED UNDATED EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA ON MARCH 25. SILVEIRA STRESSED RELATIVE LACK OF USG-GOB GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT COOPERATION (IN TERMS SIMILAR TO THOSE REPORTED REF B) AND RAISED POSSIBILITY THAT PRESIDENT'S VISIT MIGHT AFFORD OPPORTUNITY TO FINALIZE SOME AGREEMENTS IN THIS AREA. SILVEIRA STATED THAT BRAZIL PLACES NO RESTRICTIONS ON DISCUSSIONS IN THE NUCLEAR AREA, BUT THAT GOB WILL NOT ADMIT ANY REVISION OR CHANGES IN THE GOB-FRG NUCLEAR ACCORD. SILVEIRA REITERATED STANDARD GOB POSITIONS ON NONALIGNMENT, TRADE (GATT) AND HUMAN RIGHTS, STATING THAT BRAZIL'S INFLUENCE ON ITS NEIGHBORS' HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES AND PRACTICES IS VERY LIMITED. END SUMMARY

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2. AS QUOTED BY GLOBO, SILVEIRA STATED THAT PRESIDENT GEISEL AND CARTER WILL "EXPLORE CERTAIN AREAS OF COOPERATION. OUR COOPERATION TODAY IS ALMOST ENTIRELY IN THE BUSINESS AREA, OUTSIDE THE CONTROL OF GOVERNMENTS. IN THE PAST, IT WAS NOT LIKE THIS. THE VERY PROCESS OF BRAZILIAN INDUSTRIALIZATION--VOLTA REDONDA (STEEL MILL BUILT

IN 1930'S WITH EX-IM BANK FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE) FOR
EXAMPLE--RESULTED FROM A PLAN IN WHICH GOVERNMENTS
HAD A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE. TODAY, THIS DOES NOT
EXIST IN RELATION TO THE UNITED STATES. IT DOES
EXIST IN RELATION TO ALMOST ALL OTHER COUNTRIES. BUT
THIS DOES NOT PREVENT A RETURN TO COOPERATION IN SOME
AREAS WHERE STATE INFLUENCE AND THE WEIGHT OF A
GOVERNMENT DECISION CAN BE FELT IN AN IMPORTANT MANNER."
SILVEIRA SAID THAT HE EXPECTED SUGGESTIONS FOR
COOPERATION IN SOME SPECIFIC (BUT UNIDENTIFIED) AREAS
TO BE PRESENTED DURING THE CARTER VISIT, AND ADDED THAT
NEGOTIATIONS IN SOME OTHER AREAS ARE ALREADY BEING
CONDUCTED AND MIGHT BE FINALIZED DURING OR AS A RESULT
OF THE VISIT.

3. SILVEIRA STATED THAT THE CLIMATE FOR THE
CARTER VISIT IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THAN THAT WHICH
PRECEDED THE VISIT OF UNDERSECRETARY CHRISTOPHER
LAST FEBRUARY: "I THINK RELATIONS HAVE MATURED
CONSIDERABLY. I ABSOLUTELY DO NOT BELIEVE THERE
HAS BEEN A DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS...I BELIEVE
THAT KNOWING HOW TO DEFEND ONE'S NATIONAL INTERESTS
WITHOUT ANY ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENTS, WITHOUT MAKING
THIS INTO A POSITION OF GENERAL CONFRONTATION, IS
IMPORTANT FOR A COUNTRY LIKE BRAZIL....BRAZIL NEVER
TOOK AN ANTI-AMERICAN ATTITUDE. BRAZIL HAS LIMITED
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ITSELF TO DEFENDING ITS INTERESTS WITH MATURITY,
PRESENTING ITS POINTS OF VIEW WITHOUT BEING AGGRESSIVE,
BUT WITH FIRMNESS." AS FOR DIVERGENCIES BETWEEN THE
US AND BRAZIL, SILVEIRA REPORTEDLY STATED: "THEY
(THE DIVERGENCIES) WERE MORE THE RESULTS OF US ACTIONS...
AND THE FACT THAT BRAZIL KNEW HOW TO DEFEND ITS
INTERESTS RESULTED IN CERTAIN ACCOMMODATIONS BY THE
OTHER PARTY. AND FROM THIS CAME THE POSSIBILITIES OF
REAPPROXIMATION, BECAUSE IF WE HAD CEASED TO DEFEND
OUR INTERESTS, WE NEVER COULD HAVE OBTAINED
ACCOMMODATIONS FROM THE OTHER SIDE." CONTINUING, THE
FOREIGN MINISTER STATED, "THE CORE OF OUR CONVERSATIONS
IS, IN MY JUDGMENT, UP TO NOW VERY POSITIVE. IF
THINGS CONTINUE THIS WAY, THE RESULTS WILL BE
EXCELLENT." HE ADDED THAT US-BRAZILIAN POINTS
OF AGREEMENT OUTNUMBER THOSE OF DIVERGENCE. AS
FOR BRAZIL'S NUCLEAR POLICY, SILVEIRA STATED THAT
"BRAZIL ACCEPTS DISCUSSIONS WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS.
AS FOR CHANGING THAT POLICY, NO. WE HAVE A GREAT
BELIEF IN OUR NUCLEAR POLICY. AND WE HAVE THE
CONVICTION THAT IT SERVES THE WESTERN WORLD AS
WELL. IT IS NOT FOR NOTHING THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED

COMPREHENSION AND SUPPORT FROM WESTERN EUROPE. IT
IS BECAUSE IT (I.E., BRAZILIAN NUCLEAR POLICY)
CORRESPONDS TO THE INTERESTS OF WESTERN EUROPE."

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4. SILVEIRA CLAIMED THAT BRAZIL'S
RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPE ARE PROOF THAT THE
COUNTRY IS AN IMPORTANT INTERLOCUTOR IN THE WESTERN
WORLD, AND STATED, "IT IS SOMETIMES SAID THAT WE
WANT TO MOVE CLOSER TO EUROPE THAN TO THE UNITED
STATES, BUT THIS IS NOT REALLY ACCURATE. WE MOVE
CLOSER TO THOSE AREAS WHICH OFFER US THE GREATEST
ADVANTAGES. THE GREAT COOPERATION WE MAINTAIN WITH
VARIOUS SECTORS, INCLUDING THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY--
WHICH IS THE BASIC THING TODAY FOR COUNTRIES THAT
WISH TO DEVELOP--IS WITH EUROPE AND JAPAN AND WE
MUST RECOGNIZE THIS."

5. AS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, SILVEIRA SAID THAT "WE
ACCEPT TRANQUILLY THAT THEY ARE A PROBLEM OF
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION...WHAT WE DON'T ACCEPT IS
THE USE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS AN INSTRUMENT OF POLICY FOR
ANY COUNTRY, THAT THEY BE APPLIED IN A DISCRIMINATORY
MANNER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTERESTS OF THAT
COUNTRY, AND THUS BECOME A FORM OF DEPENDENCE...AT
TIMES, AMERICANS ARE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC WITH REGARD
TO BRAZIL. THEY THINK WE HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT, CONSTANT
INFLUENCE IN LATIN AMERICA. I BELIEVE OUR INFLUENCE
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IS MORE RELATIVE. I THINK THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN
INTERNAL DRAMAS WHICH SOME COUNTRIES UNDERGO--EVEN
THOUGH BRAZIL ALWAYS HAS A MODERATING ACTION--THAT
MAKE OUR OPINIONS OF VERY LITTLE VALUE. BY MEANS OF
OUR MODERATING ACTIONS WE CAN, FOR EXAMPLE, RECEIVE
REFUGEES AND WE DO THIS. THERE ARE MORE THAN 500
FAMILIES LIVING IN BRAZIL, PROTECTED IN A CERTAIN FORM
BY US, WHO CAME HERE BECAUSE THEY DO NOT FEEL THREATENED
BY BEING IN BRAZIL. WE DO NOT HAVE, HOWEVER, THE CAPA-
CITY TO CHANGE THE INTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF OTHER
COUNTRIES...THE AMERICANS THINK WE CAN HAVE A DECISIVE
INFLUENCE ON OUR NEIGHBORS, WHICH IS ABSOLUTELY
INCORRECT. I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO SAY
THIS. WE DON'T WANT IT, AND WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO
(INFLUENCE OTHER COUNTRIES) EVEN IF WE WANTED TO,
THANK GOD."

6. SILVEIRA REPEATED HIS STANDARD POSITIONS ON
TRADE AND PROTECTIONISM--INCLUDING THE ALLEGATION
THAT THE USG USES GATT FOR EXPORT PURPOSES BUT
DOES NOT ACCEPT ITS LIMITATIONS IN THE AREA OF
IMPORTS--BUT HELD OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE
US MIGHT APPROACH THE "GENERAL POSITION" DURING THE
CURRENT MULTILATERAL GATT CONVERSATIONS.
JOHNSON

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